

**SPEECH BY CLR MPHO PARKS TAU, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF  
JOHANNESBURG, SANDF EDUCATION TRUST EVENT – BRAAMFONTEIN, 6  
AUGUST 2015**

Chief of the SANDF General Solly Shoke

Members of the SANDF Education Trust

Mr. Litha Nyhonhya of Regiments Capital

Mr. Mthokozisi Dlamini of Standard Bank

Mr. Elijah Maseko of Dimension Data

Senior Government Officials

Dignitaries

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning and welcome to all of you

Ever since the days of Honourable Mayor Amos Masondo the Annual Mayoral Charity Golf Day has raised funds for deserving causes. In the past years the focus was on organizations leading the fight against HIV/AIDS. The last Mayoral Golf Day was held on 3 October 2014 in Randpark was dedicated to raising funds for the SANDF Education Trust.

Thanks to the visionary leadership of the Chief of the SANDF General Solly Shoke, the SANDF Education Trust was established in 2013 to allocate bursaries to children of SANDF members who lost their lives or were severely injured in the line of duty. Today, ladies and gentlemen, the children of affected SANDF members, at primary, secondary school and tertiary levels, are proud recipients of SANDF Education Trust bursaries.

Ladies and gentlemen, the challenges faced by families who have lost their breadwinners, are extremely difficult. When the person who was the source of income is no longer with them or is incapacitated, due to death or severe injuries as is the case with some of our SANDF members, it leaves a huge dent in the affected families. In many cases this results in a downward economic spiral, accompanied by poverty, low self-esteem, loss of interest in life's activities and sometimes severe depression. The situation is often worse for children: it means shattered dreams, shattered lives and a bleak future.

Understanding the role the played by the SANDF in protecting and defending our country, providing services in the various African states, is one area that is critical and important for our country. The peacekeeping missions undertaken in various countries cannot be underestimated. For a minute: can we all imagine a South Africa without an army to protect its people and assets? This is hard to comprehend. SANDF work is the type of work that our countrymen and women do with diligence for the love of the country, giving their lives to protect South African citizens.

Programme Director, it is for such reasons that we decided upon the SANDF Education Trust as the main beneficiary of our October 2014 Mayoral Charity Golf Day fundraising drive. One may ask: what better way to support our children than by providing resources ensuring that their lifelong dreams are realized? Bursaries for affected children will ensure that they continue to live productive and meaningful lives, and, upon the completion of their studies, make a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, the SANDF Education Trust signifies the real dream of a Rainbow Nation, following the amalgamation of the liberation movement armies, *Umkhonto we Sizwe* and others, the former South African Defence Force (SADF) and homeland armies into the SANDF following the democratic dispensation of 1994. Again as a nation and as government we are saying to the children of our Defence Force members: here is an Education Trust that can support you in your dreams and your aspirations, in the spirit of nation building and prosperity.

Today we are handing over a cheque of one million four-hundred-and-sixty-four thousand five hundred (R 1 464 500), due to the generosity of sponsors some, represented here today, linked to our Mayoral Charity Golf Day. This will enable the children of SANDF members to reap the fruits of freedom and justice that their parents lived and in some instances died for. I must also mention that one of our sponsors, had pledged four hundred and seventy thousand (R 470 000) to this initiative and paid directly to the SANDF Education

Trust. What this means is that even though as the City we are handing over a cheque of R 1 464 500 today, the total amount of money raised for the SANDF Education Trust through the City's initiatives is a whopping one million nine hundred and thirty four thousand and five hundred (R 1 934 500).

In closing, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the City of Johannesburg I would like to thank all of you for gracing this occasion aimed at ensuring that our children's future is secure. We would like to thank the companies represented amongst us here today for ensuring the success of our charity fundraising initiative, leading to this spectacular event. As financial contributors you prioritized the Mayoral Charity Golf Day above other events and the City of Johannesburg is extremely grateful to you for your generosity and sense of community.

Again, a special thanks to the Chief of SANDF General Solly Shoke for the establishment of the SANDF Education Trust – through this initiative our children's' future is now indeed far more secure. South African society can take comfort in the knowledge that the SANDF Education Trust is there to cater for our young ones. And we wish the Chief of the SANDF and all armed formations success in the maintenance of peace and security in our land and in the African continent as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we raise funds for various charity organisations, it is important that we make an impact and leave a footprint where the City has

had presence through the Mayoral Charity Golf Day. I have good news for the SANDF: the Mayoral Charity Golf Day for 2015 scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> of October to be hosted at the Modderfontein Golf Club will again raise funds for the SANDF Education Trust, marking our contribution to the Trust to two consecutive years.

We hope and trust that such contribution will go a long way in assisting the SANDF Education Trust to realise its dreams and objectives of contributing to building a learned nation and building tomorrow's leaders.

And now the moment we've been waiting for - the handing over of the cheque to our SANDF officials!

Thank you